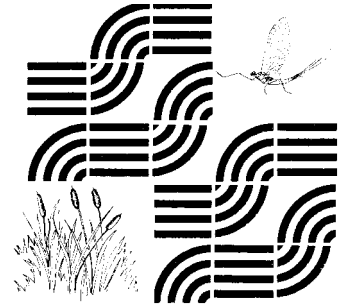


GEORGIA

# Adopt-A-Stream

Volume 6, Number 4, July / August 1999

Michele Droszcz, Harold Harber and Edie Ringel, Editors



Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division

## Municipal Storm Water Management Programs: What are they and how can Watershed and Monitoring Groups Get Involved

At a recent Adopt-A-Stream coordinator meeting, Joe Krewer of the EPD Storm Water Unit discussed how AAS and the Municipal Storm Water Management Programs can work together to solve storm water pollution problems. The EPD storm water unit issues permits called Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits, requiring certain municipalities throughout the state to control the amount of pollutants discharged into the storm sewer systems that they own or operate. An MS4 permit also requires municipalities to implement and enforce local storm water management programs. These permits have been issued to 58 large (greater than 250,000 population) and medium (greater than 100,000 population) municipalities.

The USEPA is expected to release final storm water regulations by October 29, 1999 which will require MS4 permits for many smaller municipalities and other storm water systems. These programs will include characterization of the storm sewer system and pollutants discharged to waters of the State, as well as implementation of educational programs, Best Management Practices, inspection and sampling procedures.

AAS programs can assist EPD and the local governments in their storm water management efforts by increasing public involvement and public education about storm water and nonpoint source pollution issues. Volunteers can conduct storm drain stenciling activities and help to identify problem areas, impacted streams and illicit discharges from storm water outfalls during watershed surveys and stream walks.

Atlanta City Workers, Volunteers Mark  
Drains to ensure Cleaner Streams

Volunteers can also report dumping activities, sanitary sewer leaks, overflows and other problems to the local governments. For more information about how you can get involved, please contact the State AAS Program.

## Show Your Support!

Show your commitment to Georgia's waterways by purchasing an Adopt-A-Stream 1998 conference T-shirt. They are available for \$5. Make checks payable to Columbus State University Adopt-A-Stream Conference and send to Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, GA 30354. Be sure to include the address where you would like your shirt(s) to be sent.

**1999 Erosion and Sediment**

**Control Courses**

The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education are offering a course exploring the "Fundamentals of Erosion and Sediment Control." The course is designed to help individuals learn about the impacts of development on Georgia's soil and water resources. It is open to anyone but is intended for individuals involved in land-disturbing activities such as plan design and engineering as well as inspection and enforcement at all levels of government. The course will cover interpretation of State Law as it relates to erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices.

The course will be offered September 14 - 16 and November 30 - December 2. The cost is \$120. For more information please contact Joyce Fleeman at 706-542-2101 or fleemanj@gactr.uga.edu.

## **Rivers Alive!**

Georgia's 8th annual River Clean Up week will be held October 9 - 17. The event is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources along with "Help the Hooch" and "River Awareness." Last year over 3,600 River Clean Up volunteers collected 47,500 bags of trash along with 30 dump trucks of garbage and 12.5 tons of miscellaneous items. Help make this year's River Clean Up an even greater success by volunteering with a local river clean up group. If you are interested in volunteering contact Harold Harbert at 404-675-1639.

## **Are You A Friend of the Flint?**

Then you should attend the first organizational meeting addressing the need for a Flint River watershed group. The meeting will be held at the Flint River Outdoor Center, July 27 at 6:30 pm. To get there take Hwy. 36 West from the City of Thomaston. After the second bridge the Center will be on the left. Call 888-RIVER-GA for more information.

## **Student Research Trip Down the Oconee Brings Encouraging Results**

This spring more than sixty students from Georgia College and State University took part in a unique river trip down the Oconee River. The group, led by Dr. Ken McGill a chemistry professor at GC&SU, tested the river for volatile organic compounds (VOC's). VOC's are carcinogenic pollutants such as pesticides and gasoline runoff that threaten the health Georgia's rivers. In total the group tested each mile of the Oconee for 21 different VOC's. The group used a makeshift floating laboratory to collect samples along the entire length of the river, which measures 230 miles from its headwaters in Athens to where it meets the Ocmulgee and forms the Altamaha. The trip, which began on January 14, took approximately three months to complete. Fortunately, the results of the test are encouraging. The students found that most VOC levels were quite low and well below federal standards. Dr. McGill plans to seek a grant to fund a similar trip down the Oconee in which students will be able to test for heavy metals and bacteria including coliforms.

## **Georgia River Network**

The Georgia River Network has been formed to help protect and restore Georgia's waters. The statewide group has emerged to conduct policy research, help local citizens conserve Georgia's rivers, and promote public awareness of the issues that threaten Georgia's waterways.

To learn more about the Georgia River Network contact Martin Kearns at 888-RIVERS-GA or garivernet@aol.com.

## **CoastFest '99**

CoastFest '99 will be held Saturday, October 2 in Brunswick, Georgia. The Festival is a celebration of Georgia's coastal resources and will offer a variety of family oriented environmental activities. This year's event will feature more than 45 environmental and educational organizations including live animals and interactive skits.

For more information contact the Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division at 912-264-7218.

## **Environmental Education Alliance: Fall Conference**

The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia will be holding its 1999 Fall conference from September 17 - 19 at the University of Georgia, Athens. The Conference is entitled "Building Skills and Partnerships for the New Millennium" and will enable those interested in environmental education to learn more about the field. The conference will feature keynote speaker Dr. Eugene Odum, Professor Emeritus, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia.

For more information contact Richard Osorio, GA Project Learning Tree, at 770-416-7621 and ROSORIO@GFAGROW.ORG or Deron Davis, Dunwoody Nature Center, at 770-394-3322 and

DERON@MINDSPRING.COM

## **Natural Resources Conservation Service Offices**

Your local USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Resources Service Office can help your Adopt-A-Stream group. Local offices can provide aerial, soil and topography maps. Also, NRCS representatives are available to help delineate your watershed and approximate watershed acreage.

### **NRCS Area Offices In Georgia**

Americus Area Office  
295 Morris Dr.  
Americus, GA 31709-9999  
tel: 912-924-0042  
fax: 912-924-0013  
Area Conservationist - James P. Bradley

Waycross Area Office  
Federal Building 601 Tebeau St., Room 214  
Waycross, GA 31502-0797  
tel: 912-283-5598  
fax: 912-283-8648  
Area Conservationist - David A. Ferrell

Athens Area Office  
Robert G. Stephens Federal Building, Stop 211  
355 East Hancock Ave.  
Athens, GA 30601  
tel: 706-546-2039  
fax: 706-546-2253  
Area Conservationist - E. Earl Brantley, Jr.

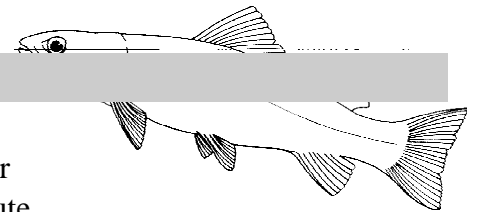
Griffin Area Office  
Federal Building, 201 West Solomon St.,  
Room G-27  
Griffin, GA 30223-3019  
tel: 770-227-1026 or 1027  
fax: 770-227-1511  
Area Conservationist - Carneth E. Goff, Jr.

### ***Adopt-A-Stream Calendar of Events***

The following are trainings and workshops which educate citizens about wetland and stream monitoring. In 1999 we are placing more emphasis on providing Train-The-Trainer workshops. Note that one day chemical and biological recertification workshops will be offered quarterly. If you are a trainer who will be conducting a workshop, tell us about it and we'll include it in the next newsletter. Please call early to register. Space is limited!

<b><u>What</u></b>	<b><u>When</u></b>	<b><u>Where</u></b>	<b><u>To Register</u></b>
Level I / Chemical Workshop	July 10	Flat Creek Nature Center	404-675-1636
Level I / Chemical Workshop	July 13	Bainbridge	912-246-3642
Biological Workshop	July 14	Bainbridge	912-246-3642
Level I / Chemical Workshop	July 17	(TBA) South Fulton	404-730-8006
Level I / Chemical Workshop	July 17	Yellow River Water Reclamation Facility	404-675-1636
Biological Workshop	July 17	Davidson Arabia Preserve	404-508-7604
Level II / Chemical Workshop	July 17	Augusta, Lock & Dan Park	706-828-2109
Biological Workshop	July 24	(TBA) South Fulton	404-730-8006
Level I / Chemical Workshop	July 31	Forty Oaks Nature Preserve	404-508-7604
Adopt-A-Wetland	August 7	GWF Alcovy Site	404-675-1636
Level I / Chemical	August 7	(TBA) North Fulton	404-730-8006
Biological Workshop	August 21	(TBA) North Fulton	404-730-8006
Bio. & Chem. Recertification Wksp.	Sept. 11	Athens Area	404-675-1636
Biological Wokshop	Sept. 11	(TBA) Fulton County	404-730-8006

**Don't forget, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream requires that you must get recertified every year so that your data is QA/QC! Sign up for a workshop now!**



The Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Newsletter is published six times per year. For more information about the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program or to contribute to the newsletter, call or write to:

**Georgia Adopt-A-Stream  
Environmental Protection Division  
4220 International Parkway, Suite 101  
Atlanta, GA 30354  
404-675-1639**